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Marginal Column

BY now, the Indian general elections are in full swing. They are the largest that have ever been held there, 175 million people in 4,000 constituencies are going to vote in 175,000 polling booths. The Government press has printed 630 million ballot papers. Voting started late in October in Himachal Pradesh on the borders of Tibet and Kashmir, a small state, which in winter is cut off by snow from the outside world. Now polling is taking place in the more densely populated states, and by the end of January, the last votes will have been cast. The result of this election will be particularly significant.

HARDLY anybody doubts that the Congress Party will again have a majority. Results which have come in so far, tend to confirm this view. The Congress Party, however, has become the rallying point of widely divergent political and economic interests. The election will answer two main questions: will the influence of the left-wing elements of the Party under Mr. Nehru be strengthened; or will the power of the right-wing and the Hindu-Muslims, led, among others, by the retiring president, Mr. Tandon, be increased? It is the opposition parties do so well that the Congress Party, in spite of having a numerical majority, will be discredited?

AMONG the opposition groups the Socialists could be mentioned first and foremost. They demand the nationalization of the means of production, and the expropriation of agricultural lands, and have considerable support in the region round Bombay and Behar. The Kripalani group who seceded from the Congress Party, and call themselves "Workers, Peasants and Tenants party," are ideologically close to the Communists, yet first demand the return to pure Gandhianism. They have been well received in Madras, the United Provinces and East Punjab, and there is much speculation about their prospects. On the extreme right wing, the Hindu Mahasabha, noted for its national and religious fanaticism, is pressing for the revocation of India's partition by constitutional means. The Communists at the other extreme, having changed their leadership four times during the last three years, accuse Nehru of being a traitor to his country, and offer to electors the establishment of a People's Democracy in India.

IN view of widespread illiteracy, solutions had to be found to many difficulties. On posters and on ballots each party will have its distinct symbol: a team of ploughing oxen, a wheel, a hut, and so on. These ingenious devices, however, hardly solve the much deeper problems of creating a parliamentary democracy in an undeveloped nation. Events in Russia and China tend to show that democratic rule is a luxury for such countries, and that an authoritarian government is much more efficient in promoting their backward economy. All Asia is concerned with the answer which will soon be given. If the Congress Party, particularly its left wing, can overcome the lethargy of the last few years and can do away with its patronage, nepotism and graft in party leadership; and if the Socialists, led by men of vision and action, can gain a real foothold in the country, totalitarianism need not succeed in South East Asia. On the other hand, if the mood expressed in the recent biography of an "Unknown Indian" and the enthusiasm for Sartre and Koestler should be typical of the nation's leaders, then prospects of a democratic India must be considered rather bleak.

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Mapai Supports 10-15 Per Cent Wage Rise

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — The Mapai Central Committee today decided to back a 10 to 15 per cent increase in basic pay for industrial and building workers to equalize their earnings with those in other branches of the economy. In future, however, all salary increases will be dependent on increases in production. The decision was passed by majority vote over the opposition of Finance Minister Eliazar Kaplan, who was again expected to increase not following production rises.

The Mapai wage policy, adopted by the Mapai Central Committee on Thursday, recommended an overall increase of 30 per cent for all workers. The matter is expected to be brought for decision before the Histadrut Executive on Thursday.

Several hundred persons, representing Mapai members on Workers Committees, were present at the Mapai meeting today. The Prime Minister, in the audience during most of the deliberations, did not speak. Other Cabinet members present included Dr. Dov Joseph, Minister of Commerce, Mr. Levi Eshkol, Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. P. Naphthal, Minister without Portfolio.

Mr. Kaplan said that this country was faced with several tasks, each of which would take a generation to fulfill, under normal circumstances. We can proudly request Jews abroad, as well as foreign countries, to help us, he said. The Prime Minister, however, had promised the Jewish leaders in the U.S. that this country would bear a third of the expenses for development and absorption of immigrants. Mr. Kaplan said, this means that the Government, the Histadrut and Mapai would have to work hard so that Israel could achieve economic independence without being obliged to lower her standard of living.

Higher Output Needed
Only by increased output could this aim be achieved. The Party was therefore, justified in requesting that the Government should increase the minimum wage to 15 per cent. Mr. Kaplan was opposed to any increase on other grounds except, of course, the cost of living.

Mr. Abraham Becker, head of the Histadrut Trades Union Department, also said that higher wages must follow greater output. He recommended that wages be increased by 10 per cent, but that those workers whose wages had not been increased in 1951 should be given a 10 to 15 per cent rise.

He admitted that this would lead to a certain measure of inflation, but the effect of the increase would be counterbalanced by the general wage-for-production scheme. The cost of living index will be that compiled by the Central Bureau of Statistics, and will represent a real change in conditions. The minimum basis from which the increase will be given has not yet been decided upon.

Mr. N. Namer, Secretary-General of the Histadrut, who wound up the debate, reportedly backed Mr. Becker's views. The resolutions adopted include an appeal to the Government for a steady supply of food and raw materials, and a request for rationalization of public administration with a view to curtailing the number of officials, and a general call for a great national effort on the part of the worker and middle class salary earners.

Soldier Left for Dead
Only Unconscious
BEERSHEBA, Saturday. — The soldier wounded in the ambush near Ein Hush last week escaped death because his Arab attackers thought him already dead.

While lying unconscious on the ground his clothes, and those of his two dead comrades, were removed. According to marks on his body, one of the attackers stood on him after the clothes were removed. He was only wounded in the hand.

An official Army report on the incident was released tonight as follows:
An officer and a soldier were killed and another soldier wounded on Wednesday morning when an Arab ambush was sprung on "Zem zama" near the road to Beersheba. The bodies of the men have been buried.

Buffer Zone Set Up Along Suez

CAIRO, Saturday. — A buffer zone has been set up between the British and Egyptian forces in the Suez Canal zone, according to a statement issued tonight. The zone is 18 miles wide and 60 miles long. Its eastern boundary starts 20 miles east of Cairo and runs down to Suez. The northern and southern boundaries of the zone have not yet been definitely fixed.



U.S. May Suggest British Quit Sudan

WASHINGTON, Saturday (AP). — The U.S. is reported to have urged Britain to support a plan to recognize King Farouk as ruler of the Sudan, to help settle Western differences with Egypt. Mr. Churchill is reported to be ready to discuss the suggestion with President Truman when the two statesmen meet here.

The State Department has suggested that Britain should join in sponsoring the offer to Egypt late in January, the report said. Under such an offer the Egyptian Government would be given sovereignty over the Sudan, which it has been claiming as its own, but which it now governs jointly with Britain. In return Egypt would be expected to:

- 1. To agree in principle to join the U.S.-backed SACME, which Egypt rejected on October 18.
- 2. To consent to hold a plebiscite in the Sudan to determine the wish of the Sudanese on their political future.

Informed diplomats said today that the suggestions are designed mainly to strengthen the SACME idea. Arab Governments so far have refused to join the SACME since Egypt rejected it.

U.S. Broke Arab Blockade, Says Eban

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — Speaking at the Israel Journalists' Association's Vocal Newspaper at the Mograbi Hall here last night, the Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Abba Eban, reviewed the relations between the two countries. Mr. Eban, who was enthusiastically greeted by the packed hall, was accompanied by Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett.

Bank loan and by other friendly acts it would be more correct to claim that without U.S. aid, the Arab blockade would have stifled this country, the Ambassador said. After the establishment of the State, many Americans thought that the Arab refugees had left Israel as a result of the creation of the State, and should therefore be accepted back. They had now come to realize that the refugees had fled the country as part of a policy to capture and destroy the State. These Americans were now of the opinion that the refugees should be resettled in Arab countries.

Mr. Eban trusted that grants-in-aid would continue to be given to Israel. He denied that Israel was called upon to undertake any obligation in return, saying that the only demand put upon this country was to accept statehood. He said that the money for the purpose stipulated and to cooperate with the economic mission which was responsible for the grant's expenditure here.

Referring to reparations from Germany, Mr. Eban reiterated that as the Western powers were not inclined to press Israel's claims, it was up to Israel herself to negotiate for reparations or to let them go by default.

Mr. Sharett welcomed Mr. Eban and thanked him. The chairman of the meeting was Mr. Y. Heftman, editor of "Haboker."

Austria Frees All Political Prisoners

VIENNA, Saturday (Reuters). — All political prisoners in Austria have been pardoned, according to the Justice Ministry. Only 538 of those sentenced as Nazi offenders were still in prison, because they had also committed common crimes.

U.S. Frees \$6m. More for Israel

By Jesse Zel Lurie
NEW YORK, Saturday (AP). — Another \$6m. was made available today from the sum of \$25.5m. appropriated for immediate emergency purchases out of the \$64m. grant-in-aid. Out of the \$25.5m. appropriated by the Technical Cooperation Administration under the terms of the Mutual Security Act, \$10.7m. have already been used for food, fertilizer, raw materials, and seeds, while \$3.3m. are still to be paid for oil. This total of \$14m. was granted to reimburse Israel for purchases that have been made since July 1, the beginning of the American fiscal year.

Today's release of \$6m. will go toward new purchases of wheat, beans, sugar, barley, other foodstuffs, and raw cotton, leaving a balance of \$5.5m. still to be released for emergency needs. On the completion of the expenditure of the \$25.5m. the negotiations will enter the second stage: expenditure of the remaining \$38.5m.

Israel Exports to U.S. Up Since 1950

NEW YORK, Saturday (AP). — Israel exports to the U.S. during the first seven months of 1951 increased by more than 44 per cent over the corresponding period of last year, according to a report released by the Jewish Agency's Economic Department.

The exports totaled \$4,423,000 as compared with \$3,068,000 in 1950. Polished diamonds led the list of export products, which also included alcoholic beverages, woolen yarns, chocolate, fruit juices etc.

Yugoslavs Invite Exiles Home

BELGRADE, Saturday (UPI). — The Yugoslav Government declared today that all of the estimated 50,000 Yugoslav political refugees living abroad would be permitted to return to the country "without fear of responsibility for having allowed themselves to be misled by the enemy of our country."

Harriman Heads Mutual Security Agency

WASHINGTON, Saturday (Reuters). — Mr. Averell Harriman, until recently President Truman's foreign affairs adviser, is to head the Mutual Security Agency, which is to replace the Economic Cooperation Administration after the Marshall Plan ends this week-end.

Syria's Solo Ratifies New Budget

DAMASCUS, Saturday (AP). — Colonel Fawzi Solo, new Syrian Head of State, today took the most important legislative action since the Army's fourth coup on Nov. 29 by ratifying Syria's new budget. The country had been without a budget for a year.

The new budget, totalling \$1,365,000,000, covers the second half of 1951 and the whole of 1952. Defence takes 1.8, 198,000,000 and education 1.8, 41,000,000.

A communiqué issued this evening stated that Solo ratified the budget in accordance with legislative powers vested in him by a military council.

HOOVER WARNS U.S. AGAINST CORRUPTION

BOSTON, Saturday (Reuters). — Former President Herbert Hoover warned today that, unless dishonesty in Government officials and Departments was stamped out "to the last official concerned," the U.S. would "decline and fall like the great republics of the past."

UN Yields Last Point in Talks

TOKYO, Saturday (Reuters). — The U.N. today offered to drop its demand for air inspection of North Korea during an armistice, if the Communists gave a written guarantee not to renovate airfields during an armistice.

Flyers Released From Hungary

WIENBADEN, Saturday (Reuters). — The four U.S. airmen released from Hungary yesterday arrived at their base at Erding, near Munich, by air last night, after crossing the Hungarian frontier into the Soviet Zone of Austria. They were met by the U.S. High Commissioner in Austria, Mr. Walter J. Donnelly, and travelled with him to Vienna. He said they kept repeating on the drive to Vienna, "Thank God we are Americans" and "now we know what it means to be American citizens."

Two planes will today fly 32 newspapermen and photographers from U.S. Twelfth Air Force headquarters here for a press conference with the airmen. The Hungarian Foreign Ministry announced the "expulsion" of the four men some hours after they had crossed into Austria yesterday. It said the U.S. Legation in Budapest had paid the fine.

Arabs May Cooperate in UNRWA Refugee Plan—Official Says

LONDON, Saturday. — The Arab states have given the U.N. Relief and Works Agency reason to believe that they would be willing to cooperate more effectively than before in the new plan for tackling the Arab refugee problem, which is to be presented to the U.N. General Assembly in January, Sir Henry Knight, British member of U.N.R.W.A., told a press conference yesterday.

Tudeh Takes Part In Iran Elections

TEHERAN, Saturday (Reuters). — Amid shouts of "long live our heroic friend Soviet Russia," the Communist Tudeh Party announced here yesterday it would take part in the Persian elections for the first time since 1948.

U.S. Jews Appeal To Iraq Regent

NEW YORK, Saturday (AP). — The American Jewish Congress has sent an urgent plea to the Regent of Iraq, appealing for a stay of execution in the case of the two Jewish boys condemned to death for their alleged part in the bombing of a U.S. information centre and the placing of explosives near Jewish firms.

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British Premier Boards Ship En Route to U.S.

LONDON, Saturday (Reuters). — Mr. Winston Churchill tonight was to board the Queen Mary on his way to Washington after presiding over day-long Cabinet discussions on his coming talks with President Truman.

The Cabinet met morning and afternoon to work out the Prime Minister's final "briefing" for the discussion.

The Queen Mary, which docked 72 hours later at Southampton today after running through 90-mile-an-hour gales in the Atlantic, was expected to make a speedy turnaround and sail tomorrow. Mr. Churchill is due to arrive in New York on Friday.

Mr. Churchill will remain in control of his Government instead of handing over power to a deputy during his visit to the U.S.

An official announcement from No. 10 Downing Street said the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, accompanying Mr. Churchill, would also remain responsible for most of his duties.

The announcement said, "During their tour to America the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary will be in constant communication with London and little delegation of duties is required. Lord Salisbury will assist at the Foreign Office and Mr. Harry Crookshank (Minister of Health) as leader of the House of Commons will preside at Cabinets. The Foreign Secretary expects to return on January 12 and the Prime Minister about January 20."

The Churchill-Truman discussions will range over the whole field of international affairs. Top-ranking subject will be defence and all aspects of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

But Mr. Churchill is also understood to have in his briefcase a British plan for the reorganization of NATO, reliably reported to have been approved by the Cabinet.

This plan contains drastic measures to make the NATO Supreme Ministerial Council a decisive body capable of dealing with political questions of common interest to its members, as well as economic and purely military matters.

Britain's nervousness to making her own atom bomb—broadly hinted by Mr. Churchill in Parliament recently—may be an important factor in his talks with President Truman.

Travelling with Mr. Churchill is his Cabinet colleague, Lord Charwell, formerly Professor Frederick Lindemann, well known atomic expert.

Prophet Isaiah

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